

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes, which comprises:

increasing water content in a raw material;

melting ~~[[a]]~~ the raw material in an atmosphere under a pressure of P_0 to obtain a molten glass;

vacuum degassing the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure of P_A , which is less than P_0 ;

wherein the pressure P of the molten glass is made to be at most $(6.1W+0.06)$ atm in the vacuum degassing step, and wherein W is the content of water in mass %; and

~~increasing water content in the raw material to obtain~~

wherein an obtained hardened glass having has at most 0.1 bubbles/g.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein the period of time during which the pressure P of the molten glass is made to be at most $(6.1W+0.06)$ atm, is at least 0.1 hour.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein P_0 is from 0.8 atm to 1.2 atm.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein W is from 0.005 mass% to 0.05 mass%.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein the glass for cathode ray tubes consists essentially of the following oxides:

SiO ₂	45 to 70 mass%,
Al ₂ O ₃	0 to 10 mass%,
Na ₂ O	1 to 15 mass%,
K ₂ O	3 to 15 mass%,
MgO	0 to 10 mass%,
CaO	0 to 10 mass%,
SrO	0 to 13 mass%,
BaO	0 to 16 mass%,
ZnO	0 to 5 mass%,
ZrO ₂	0 to 5 mass%,
TiO ₂	0 to 2 mass%,
CeO ₂	0 to 5 mass%,
B ₂ O ₃	0 to 5 mass%,
Sb ₂ O ₃	0 to 0.19 mass%,
H ₂ O	0.005 to 0.05 mass%,
SnO ₂	0 to 5 mass%, and
SO ₃	0 to 0.4 mass%.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein the Sb₂O₃ is from 0 mass% to 0.029 mass%.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein the raw material contains no SnO_2 .

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein the raw material comprises SO_3 in an amount that ranges from 0.05 mass% to 0.4 mass%.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein said hardened glass comprises at most 0.02 bubbles/g.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein bubbles formed during said vacuum degassing have a bubble volume expansion ratio is less than 100; wherein the bubble volume expansion ratio is expressed as a ratio of the average volume of a bubble present in the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure P_A to the average volume of a bubble in the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure P_0 .

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure P_A is at a temperature from 1250°C to 1350°C.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 14, wherein the vacuum degassing occurs in a vacuum degassing tank and the depth of the molten glass in the vacuum degassing tank ranges from at least 100 mm to at most 400 mm.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes, which comprises:

melting a raw material in an atmosphere under a pressure of P_0 to obtain a molten glass;

increasing a water content in the molten glass;

vacuum degassing the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure of P_A , which is lower than P_0 ;

wherein the pressure P of the molten glass is made to be at most $(6.1W+0.06)$ atm in the vacuum degassing step, and wherein W is the content of water in mass %; and

~~increasing water content in the molten glass to obtain~~

wherein an obtained hardened glass ~~having~~ has at most 0.1 bubbles/g.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the period of time during which the pressure P of the molten glass is made to be at most $(6.1W+0.06)$ atm, is at least 0.1 hour.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein P_0 is from 0.8 atm to 1.2 atm.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein W is from 0.005 mass% to 0.05 mass%.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the glass for cathode ray tubes consists essentially of the following oxides:

SiO ₂	45 to 70 mass%,
Al ₂ O ₃	0 to 10 mass%,
Na ₂ O	1 to 15 mass%,
K ₂ O	3 to 15 mass%,
MgO	0 to 10 mass%,
CaO	0 to 10 mass%,
SrO	0 to 13 mass%,
BaO	0 to 16 mass%,
ZnO	0 to 5 mass%,
ZrO ₂	0 to 5 mass%,
TiO ₂	0 to 2 mass%,
CeO ₂	0 to 5 mass%,
B ₂ O ₃	0 to 5 mass%,
Sb ₂ O ₃	0 to 0.19 mass%,
H ₂ O	0.005 to 0.05 mass%,
SnO ₂	0 to 5 mass%, and
SO ₃	0 to 0.4 mass%.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the Sb₂O₃ is from 0 mass% to 0.029 mass%.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the raw material contains no SnO_2 .

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the raw material comprises SO_3 in an amount that ranges from 0.05 mass% to 0.4 mass%.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein said hardened glass comprises at most 0.02 bubbles/g.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein bubbles formed during said vacuum degassing have a bubble volume expansion ratio is less than 100; wherein the bubble volume expansion ratio is expressed as a ratio of the average volume of a bubble present in the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure P_A to the average volume of a bubble in the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure P_0 .

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the molten glass in an atmosphere under a pressure P_A is at a temperature from 1250°C to 1350°C.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the vacuum degassing occurs in a vacuum degassing tank and the depth of the molten glass in the vacuum degassing tank ranges from at least 100 mm to at most 400 mm.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The process for producing glass for cathode ray tubes according to Claim 26, wherein the increasing water content in the molten glass occurs by burning fuel in the presence of an oxygen gas comprising an oxygen concentration of at least 90 vol%.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-13 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 14-37 are pending.

Claims 14 and 26 are amended. Applicants believe that entry of the amendment does not raise a new issue, since the number of elements in amended Claims 14 and 26 are believed to be same number as presented in Claims 14 and 26 in the amendment filed February 23, 2005.

Support for Claims 14 and 26 is found in original Claim 1, page 10, lines 15-23; and page 20, line 25.